

## Mary S Young Park



Volunteer at Mary S. Young Park to remove invasive species! Volunteers assist with removal of clematis, blackberries, tree ivy and holly (October through May), and trail work in the winter months (usually November through April).

Recent Update from Volunteer Leader Dave Kruse 02/08/10:

The 1st Saturday Ivy Pull had Ron, Lori and Stephen. They almost finished the ivy maintenance in the area N of the old water fountains.

We need help in getting more ivy maintenance done in February, March and April while the ground is really soaked so we will be able to plant in November. We do not want to plant where pulling up deep ivy roots will take out new plants. We could also use some help with the garlic mustard and herb robert pulling in April and May.

Ground ivy maintenance was finished below Mary's Lookout and a lot of wood chips tossed over the bank. That is a large area that was solid ivy 2 years ago. More ground ivy was pulled between the switchbacks on Heron Creek Loop Trail and near the river by the off-leash dog area (rope had to be used to finish last steep area).

Some ivy was pulled above the W side of the pond at the lower end of Turkey Creek.

Three coyotes were seen along Mary's Trail and a couple rabbits along the Heron Creek Loop Trail.

Frequently asked questions about Mary S. Young Volunteers:

### **Who are "Mary S. Young Volunteers" and what do they do?**

We are a not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to the restoration of the riparian habitat for citizen education, recreation and enjoyment. We work in cooperation with the City of West Linn, Parks and Recreation. With this vision to return the park to its native habitat we take several approaches. With the removal of invasive plants, the reintroducing of appropriate native plants, and the restoration of streambeds, the flora and fauna may return to its near original state. We also promote the development of excellent walking trails and general park maintenance.

### **What is an invasive plant?**

A non-native plant that establishes easily and spreads aggressively into new areas and environments, often with detrimental effects on native plant species.

### **What are native plants?**

A native (indigenous) species is one that occurs in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat without direct or indirect human actions. Species native to North America are generally recognized as those occurring on the

continent prior to European settlement.

**What is a riparian habitat?**

Areas adjacent to rivers and streams with a differing density, diversity, and productivity of plant and animal species relative to nearby uplands. Habitat that is next to, or affected by, water sources such as rivers, creeks, lakes and springs. These areas often shelter plants and animals that couldn't survive in nearby areas.

**What is flora and fauna?**

The plant and animal life of a specific ecosystem.

**What is the flora and fauna of the northern Willamette Valley?**

The region was once covered by rolling prairies, oak savanna, coniferous forests, extensive wetlands, and deciduous riparian forests. Today, it contains the bulk of Oregon's population, industry, commerce, and agriculture. Productive soils and a temperate climate make it one of the most important agricultural areas in Oregon.

**How can I help?**

Help with monthly plant removal

Donate money to support the funding of work crews

Volunteer to be a resource advisor for our board

This is an on going challenge and we need your energy and help to reclaim and restore. We cannot do this without you. We need to pull together! Can you dig it?

In 1969 Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that provides statutory protection of natural ecosystems on federal lands, and also offers the public the opportunity to consider the environmental implications of revegetating federal landscaped with introduced versus native plants (Richards 1998). Then in 1995, 9 federal agencies and 53 organizations created the Native Plant Conservation Initiative National Strategy for the protection of native plants. Work on the National Strategy is continued today by the Plant Conservation Alliance.

The Mary S Young Volunteers have formed a non-profit organization to align with their mission of eradicating Mary S Young Park of invasive species. This group, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department, provides oversight and coordination of volunteer projects at Mary S Young.

Please consider donating to this non-profit by sending your tax deductible donation to: Mary S Young Park Volunteers, c/o Parks and Recreation, 22500 Salamo Road, West Linn Oregon 97068.

Volunteer on Mondays - Interested volunteers meet every Monday morning from 8:00am to noon. Meet at the shed in the gravel parking lot. Bring your own work gloves. We provide wheelbarrows and shovels. Contact: Dave Kruse

Email: [dbkruse@comcast.net](mailto:dbkruse@comcast.net)

Telephone: 503-656-5922.

If you have a group interested in volunteering please contact Lorie Griffith (503-699-0050) to schedule your group experience (big or small, all hands can help!)

We hope to see you at the park or on the trails!

- [Parks and Recreation](#)
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